



Jesus, Servant Leader

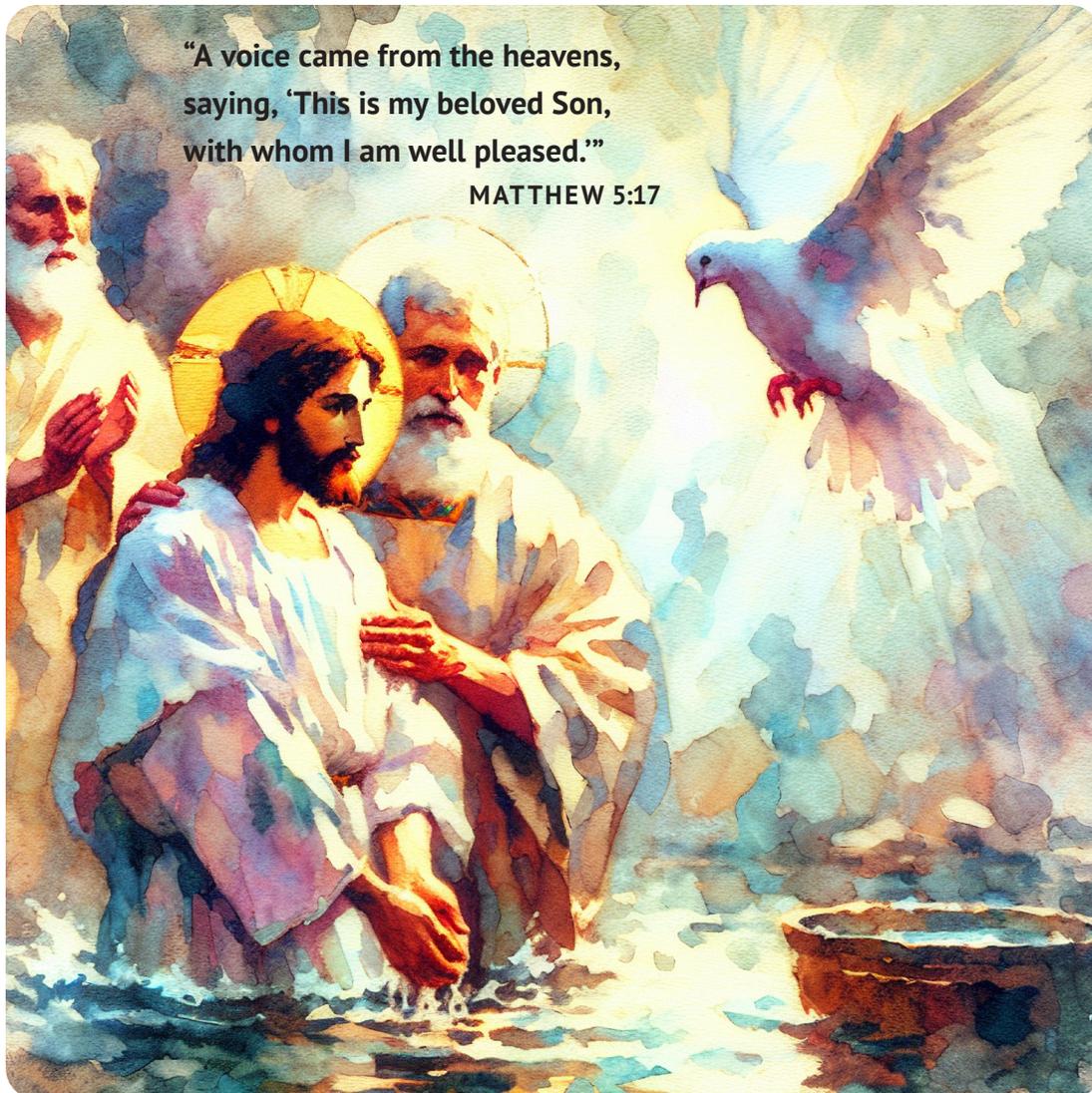
MIGUEL DULICK

John, miracle son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, cousin of Jesus and known as “the Baptist,” offers a “baptism of repentance.” Then Jesus shows up. The eternal Son of God a penitent? John is shocked and resists, saying it is Jesus who should baptize him. But Jesus insists, “to fulfill all righteousness” (Matthew 3:15).

At the very beginning of his ministry, Jesus is humbling himself, much as he did toward the end, when he washed the feet of his disciples. Then it was Peter who would resist what seemed inappropriate by the standards of this world. Jesus is giving us an example, the way of the servant leader, as described in today’s beautiful passage from Isaiah. Jesus is the servant leader, the Father’s Son, over whom the Holy Spirit danced like a dove, and the Father, with his booming voice from the heavens, said of him, “This is my beloved Son!” (Matthew 3:17).

Jesus allowing himself to be baptized may seem like a contradiction, but given all that follows, we know he is offering his followers a consistent model of what he expects from those who choose to be his disciples. As St.

Paul would later write to the Church in Philippi, “Have among yourselves the same attitude that is also yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God something to be grasped” (Philippians 2:5-6). ●



“A voice came from the heavens, saying, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.’”

MATTHEW 5:17

Reflect

This week, I’ll think about my baptism, when I was called to serve as Jesus served.



LEARN ABOUT
THE AUTHORS
OF OUR PARISH
COMMUNITY

Saint Paul the Apostle Catholic Church
1002 Convent Street Pocahontas, AR 72455
Phone 870-892-3319 FAX 870-892-5199
E-mail Address catholicillsecretary@gmail.com

Saint Joseph the Worker Catholic Church
1415 Harb Street , Corning AR 72422
Mailing Address 800 Eleventh St,
Corning, AR 72422

Pastor: Reverend Stephen Elser: 892-3319
 Director of Religious Education: Monica Loyd 892-3319 catholicilldre@gmail.com
 Parish Secretary: Christine Baltz 724-549-6324
 St Joseph Secretary: Carol Selig 501-940-3506
 School Principal: Rebecca Steimel 892-5639
 School Secretary: Kim Hills 892-5639
 Pastoral Council Chairperson: Karen Liebhaber 897-0698
 Pastoral Council Vice Chairperson: Allison Swann 219-9824
 Adult Inquiry Class, OCIA: Jamey Sullinger-758-0246
 Youth Minister: Dylan Clark 870-892-3319 catholicillym@gmail.com
 Youth Ministry Core Team: Christie Yemma, Larry Weick, Rob & Michelle Olvey, Terri Jansen, Christina Thielemier
 Lectors: Kathi Bergman 870-378-2081
 Ushers: Joseph Difani & Doug Thielemier
 Altar Servers: Tiffany Baltz: 870-810-2523
 Catholic Outreach: Teresa Baltz 870-930-5700
 Finance Committee Chairperson: Ben DeClerk 870-758-0546
 Knights of Columbus, Grand Knight: Jeremy Stout: 810-2356
 KC Website: pocahontaskofc.com
 Hall rental email- PocahontasChristopherHall@gmail.com
 A/V System: Joseph Jansen 870-202-9896
 Gym rental: St Paul School 870-892-5639

Mass Schedule

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord Saturday January 10 2026
 4:00 PM St Joseph Mass
 Int: Parishioners
 6:00 PM St Paul Mass
 Int: Billie DeClerk, d

Sunday January 11, 2026
 8:00 AM St John Mass
 Int: Dick & Sarah Thielemier, d & Dickie & Doris Flanigan (healing)
 10:30 AM St Paul Mass
 Int: Parishioners

Monday January 12, 2026
 No Mass

Tuesday January 13, 2026
 6:00 PM St Paul Mass
 Int: Keith Sutton, d

Wednesday, January 14, 2026
 9:00 AM St Paul Mass
 Int: Kevin Wolf Jr, d
 6:15 PM St Paul Mass
 Int: Bob Frankenberger, d

Thursday, January 15, 2026
 12:00 PM St John Mass
 Int: Betty Steimel, d & Lee Taylor, d
 6:00 PM St Paul Mass
 Int: Dr Albert Baltz, d

Friday, January 16, 2026
 9:00 AM St Paul Mass
 Int: Ronnie Rose, d

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Saturday January 17, 2026
 4:00 PM St Joseph Mass
 Int: Parishioners
 6:00 PM St Paul Mass
 Int: Bob & Margaret Anderson Family & John Myrle, Jack Helter Family

Sunday January 18, 2026
 8:00 AM St John Mass
 Int: Martin Wren, d & Deceased members of the Benny & Anna Thielemier Family
 10:30 AM St Paul Mass
 Int: Parishioners



Text App to 55321 to download our parish app
 1. download my Parish App
 2. Select our Parish after opening



Church Office Hours

Monday – Friday- 8am -11:30 am; 12:30 pm- 4:30 pm
 Closed on Holy Days of Obligation
 If an emergency occurs requiring the sacramental ministry of a priest, please contact the parish office Monday – Friday. After hours or on week-ends, please contact Christine Baltz 724-549-6324.

Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered Saturday 11 am-12 noon, Tuesday & Thursday 5-5:45 PM or most any reasonable time by request, (your identity need not be known). Come receive our Risen Lord’s forgiveness & healing.

Sacrament of Baptism presupposes sufficient instruction & a desire on the part of the candidate/ parent to practice the faith. *Expectant parents please ask for the Church’s blessing for a safe and healthy delivery.* Call the Church Office to schedule instructions & the service.

Sacrament of Marriage is a wonderful commitment of life & love, & involves much serious deliberation, prayer & planning. Engaged couples should contact the pastor at least SIX Months before setting a date.

Sacrament of the Sick is always encouraged for those who are seriously ill, elderly, or facing surgery. The Sacrament of Healing is available upon request. Family & friends are invited to attend & thus show their support, love, friendship, & Christian concern

Bulletin announcement deadline is Wednesday, at noon



The Catholic Diocese of Little Rock is committed to protecting children and young people. If you are aware of abuse or have been abused by Clerics, Church volunteers, or Church workers, please contact the State of Arkansas Hotline for Crimes against Children at 1-800-482-5964 and the Chancellor for Canonical Affairs, Deacon Matthew A. Glover, (501) 664-0340 ext. 361. For pastoral assistance please contact the Victim Assistance Coordinator for the Diocese of Little Rock: Laura Gottspomer at (501) 664-0340, ext. 425. Diocese of Little Rock, 2500 N. Tyler Street, Little Rock, AR 72207.

Sacristan Schedule

January 17- Susan Meier January 18- Matt & Jennifer Hibbard
 January 24- Nick DeClerk January 25- Josh & Jill Neely
 January 31- Joan Gross February 1- Scott & Kim Hills

Financial Report	
January 8, 2026	\$19,484.26
2026 year to date	\$19,484.26
Children’s Collection	\$183.00
St Joseph, December 2025	\$3,356.00
DOLR	\$8,149.00
Food Bank, December 2025	\$2,050.00



BECAUSE VIBRANT CHURCHES MATTER

Online Giving with We Share
 Follow the link on the Church website to sign up.



Church Cleaning Schedule Rose Hutsell, Debbie Hibbard, Debbie and Paula Schaechtel , **To volunteer to join a group & help maintain our church call the office or ask someone to join a group.**

Eucharistic Ministers/Altar Servers Schedule

6:00 PM Saturday January 17, 2026

Host Ministers: Dc Drake, Susan Meier

Cups: Alex & Tiffany Baltz

Cups: Paul & Christie Yemma

Altar Servers: Luke, Jacob & Blakely Jansen

10:30 AM Sunday January 18, 2026

Host Ministers: Dc Drake, Debbie Hibbard

Cups: Leroy & Jennifer Nichols

Cups: Michelle Olvey, Jennifer Hibbard

Altar Servers: Leo Clark, Owen Smith & Etta Clark

6:00 PM Saturday January 24, 2026

Host Ministers: Tom & Chris Baltz

Cups: Mitch & Teresa Blatz

Cups: Rose Hutsell, Trish Thielemier

Altar Servers: Jake Baltz, Dru & Evelyn Steimel

10:30 AM Sunday January 25, 2026

Host Ministers: Claire Garoutte, Cyndy Busick

Cups: Angie Declerk, Rene' Tyler

Cups: Debbie Hibbard, Brin Presley

Altar Servers: Zoey Hibbard, Austin James, & Caroline Thielemier

Knights of Columbus Meeting : January 14, 2026

Homebound and Nursing Home Ministry

January: Chris Baltz & Maria Dickson

January Ushers:

Saturday: Benny Baltz, Nick DeClerk

Sunday: Travis DeClerk, Chris Hoggard, Marty Moore, James Presley

Any parishioners that need your 2025 year end contribution totals, please call the church office during business hours.

Anyone who ordered a poinsettia please feel free to take home after the 10:30 AM Mass January 11th. Thank you.

Women of Hope: A Day of Retreat

When: Friday January 30, 2026

5:15pm - 8 pm

Saturday January 31, 2026

8 am- 3 pm

Where: Christ the King Catholic Church

4000 N Rodney Parham Rd

Little Rock, AR 72212

Register: WomenofhopeAR.org

Featured guests: Mary Bielski & Sarah Kroger

Confirmation 2026:

Our first confirmation class is **January 18**, after the 10:30 Mass.

ALL candidates, parents and sponsors will meet in the youth room.

Youth Ministry will be starting a parish food pantry.

We will eventually be looking into a larger program, but would like to start by asking for donations from the parish. Please bring any nonperishable food you can spare to the parish office.

Please pray for: Bishop Anthony Taylor, David Bassford, Debbie Junkersfeld, Jan Richardson, Ella Scobey, Tommy O'Donnell, Stephanie Garner, Dennis Blount, Les McPherson, Bridgette Kasinger, Gary Baltz, Jacquolyn Weick, Sheila Saala, Jessica Pfeffer, Mary Broadway, Jake Kasinger, Gail Pinion, Josh Nichols, Jo Ann Manis, Pam Flanigan, Becky Catron, Tanya Flanigan Smith, Luke Steimel, Donna Baltz, Vivian Blackshear, Dave Weick, Mike Cook, Christina Smith, Dorothy Hoelscher, Tim Junkersfeld, Arkie DeClerk, Leonard Thielemier, Nekayah Thomas, Virginia Sacher, Brooke Junkersfeld, Joe T Carroll, Lane Clayton, Jo Vatsula, Richard Jenkins, Jim & Shirley Lamb, Steve Bodden, Rebecca Bodden, Susan Ullrich, Linda Davenport, Dorothy Ward, Bonnie Schmidt, Elizabeth Smith, and Keith Broadway.

Good News!

January 11, 2026
The Baptism of the Lord (A)

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 / Acts 10:34-38 / Matthew 3:13-17

MIGUEL DULICK

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Dear Padre

January 11, 2026

Why do our bishops not marry? Scripture plainly says that they must be the husband of one wife and have faithful children.

This is an excellent question and brings us face to face with an important truth: for Catholics, the sacred Scripture is not the singular source of our practice and discipline. We also look, with equal authority, to the living Tradition of the Church. The magisterium is entrusted with the authentic interpretation of both Scripture and Tradition.

With this theological and historical context as a necessary background to your question, the answer to your query is this: the lived Tradition of the Church does not support a married clergy, including bishops. Although the Scripture allows for it, and provides some general guidelines, the lived Tradition of the Church does not. The Roman Catholic Church has a celibate clergy and will continue to have a celibate clergy unless and until the magisterium, in union with the pope, determines otherwise. There have been some discussions about changing this discipline, but now there is not much momentum that would suggest any imminent change.

In the wider Orthodox Catholic Church, in union with Rome, there is a provision for a married clergy, but, even in these traditions, there is no exception made for married bishops. Bishops are and will continue to be celibate regardless of what Scripture may allow. ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSSR / DearPadre.org

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ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

4650 Engelberg Road, Pocahontas, AR 72455



Parish Staff

Pastor: Rev. Stephen Elser (501) 420-4531 frstephenelser@gmail.com
 Secretary: Jane Smith (870) 378-5052 stjohns4650@gmail.com
 Hall Rental: Jessica Stout (870) 378-0300 Rose Throesch (870) 378-6282
 Cemetery: Johnathan Wren (870) 202-3727 Ben Throesch (870) 378-4567

Parish Office Hours: Thursday 8:00AM-12:00 Noon, or by appointment

Mass Schedule

Saturday	11:00AM Confessions, St. Paul (Pocahontas) 3:30PM Confessions, St. Joseph (Corning) 4:00PM Mass, St. Joseph (Corning) 6:00PM Mass, St. Paul (Pocahontas)
Sunday	7:30AM Confessions, St. John (Engelberg) 8:00AM Mass, St. John (Engelberg) 10:30AM Mass, St. Paul (Pocahontas)
Monday	No Mass
Tuesday	5:00PM Confessions, St. Paul (Pocahontas) 6:00PM Mass, St. Paul (Pocahontas)
Wednesday	9:00AM Mass, St. Paul (Pocahontas) (School Year) 12:00 Noon Mass, St. Paul (Pocahontas) (Summer)
Thursday	8:00AM-12:00 Noon Adoration, St. John (Engelberg) 12:00 Noon Mass, St. John (Engelberg) 5:00PM Confessions, St. Paul (Pocahontas) 6:00PM Mass, St. Paul (Pocahontas)
Friday	9:00AM Mass, St. Paul (Pocahontas) (School Year) 12:00 Noon Mass, St. Paul (Pocahontas) (Summer)

WOMEN OF *Hope*

A DAY OF RETREAT

Come and be filled.

Women of Hope, A Day of Retreat provides a simple and sacred space in which women can be filled with Jesus, the Author of Hope. This day will fill your soul and transform your heart. Join us as we journey through the Gospels, guided by Mary of Bethany.

When

An Evening of Preparation
Friday, January 30, 2026
5:15 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

A Day of Retreat
Saturday, January 31, 2026
8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

Where

Christ the King Catholic Church
4000 N Rodney Parham Rd
Little Rock, AR 72212

Register

Registration Fee \$75
For more information, visit us at
WomenofHopeAR.org



Featured Guests



MARY BIELSKI
Featured Speaker



SARAH KROGER
Praise & Worship

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RODRIGO DE MIGUEL / CATHOPIC

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
January 12	January 13	January 14	January 15	January 16	January 17	January 18
Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	St. Anthony, Abbot	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Sm 1:1-8 Mk 1:14-20	1 Sm 1:9-20 Mk 1:21-28	1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20 Mk 1:29-39	1 Sm 4:1-11 Mk 1:40-45	1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a Mk 2:1-12	1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a Mk 2:13-17	Is 49:3, 5-6 1 Cor 1:1-3 Jn 1:29-34

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



ANTONELLA ULLAURI / CATHOPIC

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

In the family, faith is handed on together with life, generation after generation. It is shared like food at the family table and like the love in our hearts. In this way, families become privileged places in which to encounter Jesus, who loves us and desires our good, always.

HOMILY, ROME, JUNE 1, 2025